Kol-Dam Project in Uttarkashi

1866.SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the cost of the Kol-Dam project in Uttarkashi indicating the breakup for consultancy and implementation;

(b) whether any tenders, technical or commercial, were invited for the purpose;

(c) if so, the number of tenders received;

(d) whether selection of the bid has been finalised, if so, the basis for the selection indicating its main specifications and advantages; and

(e) by when the project is likely to be completed/implemented and the quantum of power likely to be generated therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) The Kol Dam Hydro-electric Power project, located in Himachal Pradesh, will be implemented by the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC). The present estimated cost of the project is about Rs. 3900 crore including Rs. 63.9 crore (approximate) towards prime consultancy work.

(b) to (d) Tenders for appointment of "Prime Consultant' for the project were invited in August, 2000 and bids were opened in October, 2000. Six parties have submitted technical bids for prime consultancy work and bids are presently under evaluation.

(e) The project is planned for completion during the 11th Plan period and is expected to generate about 3054 million units of electricity at 90% dependable year.

Floride contaminated drinking water in Gujarat

1867.SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether out of 2826 villages/habitations, 1175 villages/habitations still remain affected by excess Floride contamination of drinking water in Gujarat;

(b) the reasons for not providing potable water to the villages/habitations even after more than 50 years of independence;

(c) whether providing potable water is covered under the Basic Minimum Services Programmes (BMS); and

(d) if so, the reasons for not asking the State Government to cover these villages/habitations under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) and supplement the efforts of the State by providing funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (PROF. (SHRTMATI) RITA VERMA): (a) As reported by the State Government, out of 30,269 habitations in Gujarat, 1,175 habitations are affected by excess floride contamination in drinking water.

(b) As per latest report furnished by the State Government, out of total 30,269 rural habitations in the State, 27,101 are fully covered 2,895 are partially covered and 273 are not covered.

(c) and (d) Drinking Water Supply is State subject and supply of drinking water facilities to rural habitations are provided by State Governments with the funds provided under the State Sector Minimum Needs Progrmme (MNP). The Centra! Government supplements the efforts of the State Government by providing financial assistance under the Centrally sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). To tackle quality problems, State can utilise upto 20% of the ARWSP funds on such schemes/ projects. Since 1.4.1998, powers to plan, sanction and implement Such schemes under ARWSP have been delegated to States. Prior to 1-4-1998, during 1994-98, Government of India sanctioned six projects at a total approved cost of Rs. 61.77 crores to tackle floride problem and provide safe drinking water in 514 habitations of the State. During the current year, Rs. 74.85 crores have been allocated to Gujarat under ARWSP and in view of the scarcity of drinking water due to deficient rainfall prevailing in the State, the whole allocation has been released.

The National Agenda for Governance of the Government of India envisages provision of drinking water supply facilities to all rural habitations in the country in five years. In consonance with the National Agenda for Governance, the State Government has prepared comprehensive Action Plan to cover all rural habitations in five years, subjct to availability of funds.

Harvesting of rainwater for drinking and irrigation purposes

l868. SHRI KIRPAL PARMAR. Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering any scheme regarding harvesting of rainwater in order to use if for drinking and irrigation purposes; Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.